

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Kate Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer
X	Stephen Bayley, Vice Chairman
A	Joe Bergin
X	Mike Farina
A	Dave Fleig
X	Lori Maggi
A	Cindy McNeil Sola, Chairman
A	Ed Vynalek
A	Lizz Milardo, First Selectman
X	Susan R. Waide, Economic Development Coordinator
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bayley, vice chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Anderson asked what the fiscal year is. Mrs. Batzner stated July 1-June 30. Mr. Bayley recommended if Ms. Anderson has any receipts, to get them approved by Mrs. Sola and submit them to the Finance Dept.

With the above question answered, there were no additions to the agenda. Agenda stands as submitted.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mike Farina moved to approve the 8 March 2017 minutes as submitted. Kate Anderson second. Motion carried unanimously.

In regard to the 10 May 2017 minutes, Ms. Anderson stated she had not added information as requested by Mrs. Sola. Mrs. Batzner recommended the minutes be amended to include the information as they have already been submitted to the Town Clerk's Office.

Correction to the 10 May 2017 minutes – page 2 – b. History of Tylerville – add – “The Commission should look into the shipyards that were there, folklore about 7 feet dogs, seven sons, and there was also a place to have a rifle association or something in that area.” and c. Working with other committees, end of sentence – delete “(s)”

MOTION: Kate Anderson moved to approve the 10 May 2017 minutes as amended. Mike Farina second. Motion carried unanimously.

In regard to a comment in the 10 May 2017 minutes, Mrs. Maggi stated she does not personally know a lot about Tylerville’s history, but does know people in town who do and would be happy to contact them.

6. Old Business

a. National Main Street Grant and the Mocket

Ms. Anderson reported the fund raising period ended 1 June 2017 and quite a few sizable donations were received. Unclear at this time whether Commission met the entire \$3,200 goal (may be \$400 short). Ms. Anderson stated she has not heard from Connecticut Main Street regarding the next steps and will reach out to them about this. Ms. Anderson also stated her concern is in finding a company to make the mocket statues as it’s unclear whether or not the previous company that was identified can still do the work. Mrs. Maggi asked what happened to the previously identified company. Ms. Anderson stated when Greg McKenna, Higganum Pharmacy, spoke to them they were either on the verge of being bought out or going out of business. Mrs. Maggi recommended reaching out to the company. Mr. Bayley suggested Ms. Anderson and Mr. McKenna do a follow up press release about the fund raising project and now the next step is designing and producing the statues. Mr. Farina suggested contacting the Town of West Hartford in regard to a manufacturer as they had cow statues constructed.

Discussion followed in regard to cost – the original estimate was approximately \$800 per statue and the thought was to buy four statues. Mrs. Maggi asked if EDC was going to purchase the statues or were individual businesses to purchase them with Ms. Anderson responding individual businesses. Mrs. Maggi asked if any businesses have committed to purchasing a statue. Ms. Anderson stated Mr. McKenna has committed, Jack Murphy of Jack’s Country Kitchen, and Ming Chou of The Village Market, have shown interest. Mrs. Maggi stated this is a wonderful project, but suggested orders be secured before orders are placed and monies are put into the statues. Discussion followed with it being determined that Mr. McKenna needs to be brought into the conversation.

b. EDC’s Responsibilities and Mission Statement

Ms. Anderson distributed copies of Core Purpose Statement and Mission Statement – Draft (an email from Cindy Sola, Chairman, dated 26 May 2017) and a copy of a Town Ordinance, effective 24 June 1994, pertaining to EDC. Mrs. Maggi recommended discussion on this matter be tabled until Mr. Bergin, Mr. Fleig, and Mrs. Sola are present. Mr. Bayley noted the Charter is currently in the process of being revised and perhaps the Commission should also wait on its approval. Mr. Farina stated EDC Commissioners are appointed and responsibilities are very limited (advisory). Mr. Farina suggested finding out how the other boards/commissions feel about this. Mrs. Maggi stated it’s important for the Commissioners to know what their mission is and why they’re here.

Item tabled until 9 August 2017.

c. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update

The second public workshop was held on Thursday, 8 June 2017. No one from the Commission had attended. The next meeting of the POCD Committee will be Tuesday, 27 June 2017, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam.

Item tabled until 9 August 2017.

d. Haddam Fall River Day

Ms. Anderson reported Mrs. Sola is concerned about manpower for this event as well as permitting. If anyone is unable to volunteer but knows of someone else who can, please let Mrs. Sola know. Mr. Farina asked if East Haddam will be doing something as well or is Haddam doing this alone. Ms. Anderson stated the Tourism Subcommittee will be helping as well as Robin Munster. Mrs. Maggi stated she believes the Lions will be assisting. A brief discussion followed in regard to there being a challenge, or potential of, between the two towns. Mr. Bayley mentioned he had read in the Haddam/East Haddam (HaddamNow) newspaper an article pertaining to the East Haddam Board of Selectmen where an East Haddam resident raised concern over sharing an EDC coordinator with Haddam. Mrs. Waide stated she was aware of this and that there will always be certain people (both sides of the river) who will feel like that. Mrs. Waide also stated that she thinks sharing a coordinator will work out well for both towns.

Mrs. Maggi reported East Haddam is creating a committee to revisit the redevelopment of the area near the Opera House. Mrs. Waide stated this isn't going to happen for a while noting that the Town Hall has to be moved first. Mr. Bayley stated Bob Casner, East Haddam EDC, had mentioned this at one point. Mrs. Waide stated East Haddam is looking for new renderings depicting more Victorian style structures.

Haddam Fall River Day is scheduled for Saturday, 9 September 2017, Haddam Meadows State Park.

e. EDC Coordinator

Mrs. Waide reported she had written a press release and it is currently being reviewed by Lizz Milardo, First Selectman. Mrs. Waide has started to put together a business survey and will speak face to face with business owners. Mrs. Waide will also begin working on EDC's website as Mrs. Milardo would like it to have a better presence (liked some features on East Haddam's website).

Ms. Anderson asked what Mrs. Waide's hours will be. Mrs. Waide stated it's unclear at this time – possibly starting at 10 hours and going up to 15 hours (unclear what the cap is) – and that she is looking to be in the office Wednesdays and Thursdays, but that could change. Mrs. Waide stated she will have specific office hours so people will know she's in the office, but they have not been defined as of yet.

Mrs. Maggi asked Mrs. Waide to tell the Commission about her background. Mrs. Waide stated she has her own consulting business, teaches at the University of Hartford and Middlesex Community College, worked 20 years for American Eagle Credit Union (public relations liaison), worked for Pitney Bowes, and is currently writing a book about Venture Smith from East Haddam.

Mrs. Maggi stated she's concerned about East Haddam not passing their budget and the potential for the position to be cut from their budget. Mrs. Waide stated it's just a matter of East Haddam passing their budget, and she can get things up and running in Haddam in the interim.

Mrs. Maggi asked if Mrs. Waide was involved with East Haddam's commissions/boards. Mrs. Waide stated no, only parent groups within the schools.

Mrs. Waide stated there will be work taking place on the Swing Bridge. Mr. Bayley stated there is some EDC development related to the bridge such as a pedestrian walkway; and asked Mrs. Waide if she knew if a pathway would be installed on the bridge. Mrs. Waide stated she doesn't believe it will happen based on cost and the need to balance the bridge. A brief discussion followed.

Mrs. Maggi asked about an article within the Haddam Bulletin concerning sidewalks (not interested in them in Tylerville). Discussion followed in regard to comments made during the POCD workshops and repairs to the sidewalks along Route 154 in Haddam Center. Mrs. Batzner stated if memory served her correctly, Liz Glidden, Town Planner, had obtained a Connectivity Grant for Tylerville.

Mrs. Maggi stated it's her understanding that the town's website will have the ability to submit permit forms online; and from a business standpoint for contractors this is wonderful.

Later in the meeting, there was discussion in regard to the water line coming to Tylerville, an affordable housing development on Brookes Court, and sidewalks being used in Tylerville.

7. New Business

a. Resignation – Brenda Hunter

Due to a personal matter, Mrs. Hunter has resigned. Thank you, Brenda for your time on the Commission!

Mr. Bayley asked about openings on the Commission. Mrs. Batzner stated if anyone knows of someone who may be interested in serving on the Commission, to contact Lizz Milardo, First Selectman.

b. Haunted House

Mr. Bayley reported that Chuck Cook is interested in holding this event again. For Mrs. Waide's benefit, Ms. Anderson gave a brief synopsis of last year's event. Mrs. Waide stated she could help with publicity.

c. 12 July 2017 Meeting - Canceled

Due to summer vacations, this meeting has been canceled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 August 2017, 6:30 p.m.

d. Higganum Center – Picnic Table and/or Bench

Mr. Farina asked about the installation of a picnic table and/or bench in the area between DaVinci's and the new bridge in an attempt to attract people. Mrs. Batzner reported the property belongs to the Village Parks Society (contact Scott Brookes, President). Discussion followed. Mrs. Waide spoke in regard to directional signs informing people of where specific businesses are located.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Lori Maggi moved to adjourn. Mike Farina second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 August 2017.